



21 TACRON TIMES



From the Captain's Desk

MARCH 2014

Blackjack Family and Friends,

I continue to be ever so grateful to lead these amazing Sailors and this great command! This tour is going by too quickly, and I truly am thankful for each day I am blessed to wake up and come here to work.

It was great seeing so many of you at the Holiday Party! Kasey and I had a blast and LOVED the contests! Thank you, LT Dargan, for the over-the-top air guitar lessons. We can't wait to the next opportunity to have some fun and laughs.

The Sailors of Detachment ONE departed on February 8th aboard USS BATAAN. I am so proud of their accomplishments during work-ups. Now they are operating forward, ready to respond to our nation's calling. They are a tremendous team and have many great accomplishments, both individually and collectively, ahead of them. I know how much they will all be missed and I want to reiterate what Kasey and I shared at the Family Pre-Deployment Brief...You are our family and we, the Ombudsman, Karina Hidalgo, and this command stand ready to help anyone in need or if you just would like an ear.

Speaking of the Sailors on Detachment ONE, Kasey created a fantastic Deployment Calendar, featured on Page 3 of the Newsletter. We need your input to make this successful as a morale booster for our loved ones. First deadline is coming up quick (March 3rd) so please use this weekend and next to get creative. Could be a fun activity with the kids too! Details on Page 3.

Don't forget to like us on Facebook! We use the page to help disseminate info, such as weather delays and closures. It's not the only way, but it's one of the ways!

Congratulations to our Senior Sailor of the Year, AC1 Adkins; our Air Traffic Controller of the Year, AC1 Anderson; our Junior Sailor of the Year, YN2 Price, and our Blue Jacket of the Year, OS3 Martinez! I'd also like to congratulate our Senior Sailor of the Quarter, AC1 Anderson; Junior Sailor of the Quarter, AC2 Gardner; and Blue Jacket of the Quarter, ACAN Momb, for the October-December, First Quarter FY 2014! All com-



CDR William B. Bushman

petitions were tough, but these Sailors have set themselves apart by performing their primary job superbly and by giving back to the command and to the community.

And lastly, we DO have many Sailors who contribute their time, money, and energy to the community! Please read up on the upcoming volunteer opportunities from our Volunteer Coordinator, IT2 Doerfler, and let him know if you'd like to participate.

Cheers,
Billy Bushman

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Senior Enlisted Corner

Greetings Blackjacks family and friends!

It was recently announced that TACRON TWO ONE was awarded the Retention Excellence Award FY13. This award is given by the United States Department of the Navy to commands for sustaining superior levels of military retention. Congratulations to all our Sailors for making this happen.

Welcome back to AC2 Gardner and AC2 Green from their temporary duty at NAS Oceana Air DET Norfolk where they both attained their designation as Naval Station Norfolk Heliport Supervisors. Both made a great impact and proudly represented TACRON TWO ONE.

I would be remiss if I didn't once again wish fair winds and following seas to our shipmates onboard the USS BATAAN as they begin their deployment. We all wish them the best of luck and already look forward to their return home. Thanks to all their loved ones for their support.

Sincerely,
OSC David M. McElroy



OSC David M. McElroy

Resource of the Month

The Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society

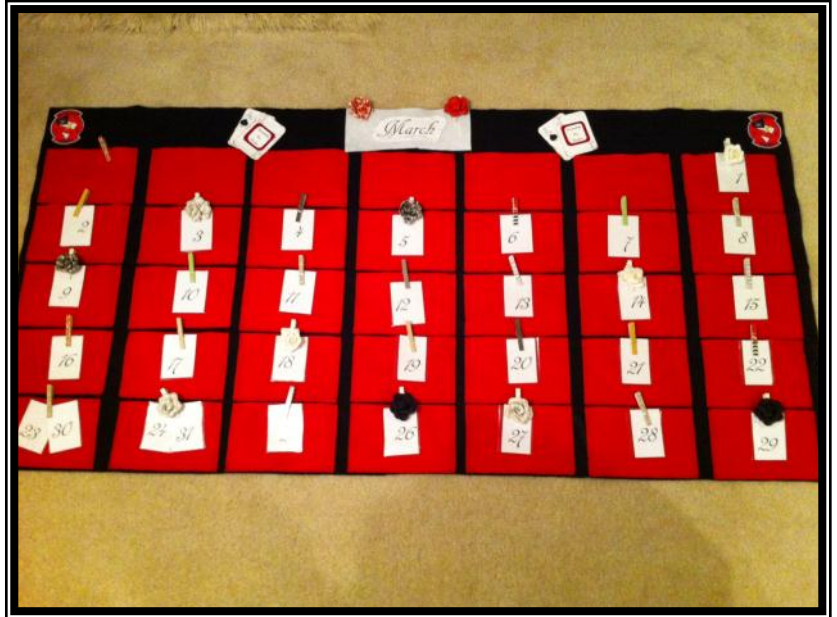
Founded in 1904, the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society is a private non-profit charitable organization. It is sponsored by the Department of the Navy and operates nearly 250 offices ashore and afloat at Navy and Marine Corps bases throughout the world. Staffed primarily by Volunteers. NMCRS is funded by loan repayments and the Active Duty/Retiree Awareness and Fund Drive Campaigns held each March. Donations are also accepted throughout the year from corporations, private individuals, wills and bequeaths. The mission of the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society is to provide, in partnership with the Navy and Marine Corps, financial, educational, and other assistance to members of the Naval Services of the United States, eligible family members, and survivors when in need; and to receive and manage funds to administer these programs. The Society provides need based financial assistance to eligible recipients in the form of: Interest-free loans and grants Scholarships and interest-free loans for education. For further information, to schedule an appointment, or to Volunteer please call 462-1596, Monday-Friday 0800-1600. www.nmcrcs.org.

TACRON 21 recently began their 2014 fund drive for The Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society. If you are interested in donating to give back to fellow Sailors, please see OSSN Winbush.

Blackjack Family & Friends,

Kasey has been hard at work over President's Day Weekend creating the Deployment Calendar (pictured above set up for March 2014). Thanks to LCDR and Julie Miller for the advice and help! Now I need all of your support to make this a fun way for our Sailors to look forward on deployment.

I am asking you to send pictures and letters, notes, art work, or small surprises for a particular day in each month for your Blackjack Sailor on deployment. This is a fun way to recognize special days in your relationship and family or "just because" days. This is a great morale booster, especially when the Sailor knows there's something he or she can open but has to wait until that day to open it! It's something to look forward to and we can all appreciate that!



Here's how it works: Each red rectangle is a pocket for that particular day of the month. The Detachment will change the dates around for each month as needed. You can send a small photo that can be clipped to the outside of the pocket or send an envelope that can be inserted into the pocket for the date you choose. Just put your Sailor's name and the date you want your Sailor to open it on the outside of the envelope or on the back of the photo!

For dates in BOTH MARCH AND APRIL: I plan to mail the calendar on March 4th so I need all your input no later than March 3rd. That means the first 2 weeks in March may be missed, but your Sailor will still get it if you have a special day in early March. Please drop off your stuff here at T-111 or get it to another Sailor to bring in or we can set something else up as well if you contact me or OSC McElroy. Of course, you can always mail it directly to the ship addressed to your Sailor but be sure to put the calendar stuff in a separate envelope labeled "FOR THE COMMAND CALENDAR" so your Sailor doesn't open it early!

This can be a lot of fun and hold special meaning for the Sailors. Feel free to send a note or letter or funny anecdote for the single Sailors too.

Future Collection Due Dates:

3 March: March AND April 2014 Calendar Dates

8 April: May 2014 Calendar Dates

6 May: June 2014 Calendar Dates

10 June: July 2014 Calendar Dates

10 July: August 2014 Calendar Dates

5 August: September and October 2014 Calendar Dates

Thanks for all you do on the homefront!

Very respectfully,
CDR Billy Bushman

Preparing for Deployment

While all the Sailors are preparing for deployment, Fleet and Family Service Center came to building T-111 to give a brief to family members on what to expect with the upcoming deployment. Representatives addressed the importance of having a will, power of attorney and all financial situations in place prior to deployment. Other topics that were discussed include the emotions that come with deployment and services that are available to the family in the Sailors' absence as well as communication expectations. FFSC also prepared a brief for the children that took place in a separate room to help inform the children of what can be expected.

CDR Bushman addressed the family members of TACRON 21 prior to Fleet and Family Service Center's pre-deployment brief.



ACCS Midnight Bids Farewell to Family and Friends



TACRON 21 Sailors attended an assembly at Point O' View Elementary School to pick up Senior Chief Midnight for deployment. Senior Chief has been with TACRON since 1996 and deploys with each detachment. He will be making port calls and mentoring young Sailors abroad. He leaves behind a wife and three children.

Preparing for The Black Jack Holiday Party



The MWR committee was responsible for putting together the holiday party. When Black Jacks arrived at the Hilton Ocean Front, each guest had a set of cards representing “black jack” at their place setting. The cards were also used to give away 5 Starbucks gift cards. If the “J” on the card was red, it was a winner. Above left is AC3 Mills and on the right is AC2 Jones working on the card set.



The 2014 Holiday Party



The 2014 TACRON 21 holiday party was held at the Hilton Ocean Front on January 11. Entertainment was provided by DJ Fonz and multiple contests throughout the evening kept the party flowing. Guests were awed by LT Dargan's expert air guitar lessons while IS2 Ritchie, YN2 Abreu and IT3 Pera competed for a Kindle in the air guitar contest. IS2 Ritchie reined in as the prize all star. Other contests were a dance off and a scavenger hunt. Prizes ranged from gift cards to Kindle Fires. IT2 Lee took home a \$250 gift certificate to Founder's Inn Spa and Resort while OS3 Heuring walked away with the grand prize of a blue ray DVD home theatre system!



Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities!!!

Wounded Warrior Run- Saturday, March 29th

Tour de Cure- Saturday, April 26th

Food Bank of Southeastern Virginia

-If you are interested in any of these opportunities please contact the Command Volunteer Coordinator, IT2 Aaron Doerfler, at aaron.doerfler@navy.mil for more info



Sailors in the Spot Light



OS3 Martinez
Bluejacket of the Year



YN2 Price
Junior Sailor of the Year



AC1 Adkins
Sailor of the Year

Congratulations!

Farewell's



WE WILL MISS YOU



TACRON 21

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Welcome to the Blackjack Family:

OS3 Harris
YN3 Ballard
ACAN Debblay

Best Wishes to the following family members as they depart TACRON 21 and move on to future endeavors:

LCDR Ensley
LT Cabana
LT Holland
LT Monti
AC1 Fryar
OS2 Macias

Happy Birthday to the following Shipmates:

OS2 Davis—19 Jan
IS2 Lajiness—30 Jan
IT2 Lee—9 Feb
AC2 Vicioso—23 Feb
ACAN Momb—24 Feb
AC3 Beltran—25 Mar
LCDR Beam—31 Mar

